

Message Text

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INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANILA 5072

DEPARTMENT PASS SAIGON AS MINIMIZE PERMITS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, RP, VN, VS

SUBJECT: GOP MOVING TOWARD RECOGNITION OF DRV

1. ALL MANILA PAPERS APRIL 21 HEADLINE GOP PLANS ESTABLISH DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH DRV. ACCOMPANYING STORIES, BASED ON BACKGROUNDER BY "INFORMED GOVERNMENT SOURCES" STATE RECENT INDOCHINA DEVELOPMENTS HAVE MADE IT URGENT FOR GOP TO ESTABLISH DIRECT COMMUNICATIONS WITH HANOI. ACCOUNTS ALSO NOTE THAT CULTURAL AND TRADE EXCHANGES ARE USUAL PRELUDE TO DIPLOMATIC NORMALIZATION.

2. PRESS ACCOUNTS SUGGEST PRES. MARCOS AUTHORIZED DIPLOMATIC CONTACTS WITH HANOI THROUGH PHILIPPINE MISSIONS ABROAD "A LONG TIME AGO." THESE CONTACTS ALLEGEDLY "BLOSSOMED" DURING MRS. MARCOS' RECENT VISIT TO MIDDLE EAST WHEN SHE REPORT-EDLY MET WITH DRV REPRESENTATIVES. PRESS SPECULATES " MORE DIRECT CONTACTS WITH HANOI" CAN BE EXPECTED SOON. ALL STORIES PUT DRV RECOGNITION IN CONTEXT OF PRESIDENT MARCOS' CONFIDENTIAL

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POLICY OF NORMALIZING RELATIONS WITH SOCIALIST COUNTRIES

AND TRIPS TAKEN BY MRS. MARCOS IN SUPPORT OF THIS DIPLOMACY. FIRST LADY'S DISCUSSIONS WITH NORTH KOREAN OFFICIALS IN KATHMANDU ARE MENTIONED WITH IMPLICATION THAT GOP-NORTH KOREAN NORMALIZATION MAY ALSO BE EXPECTED. USING ANALOGY OF GOP RELATIONS WITH EE STATES PRIOR NORMALIZATION WITH MOSCOW, SOME ACCOUNTS SPECULATE GOP/DRV/DPRK NORMALIZATION CLULD EVEN PRECEDE NORMALIZATION WITH PRC.

3. COMMENT: GOP MOVES TOWARD RECOGNITION OF DRV (WHICH SEEMS FOREGONE CONCLUSION) AND HINT OF RECOGNITION OF NORTH KOREA FOLLOW HARD ON HEELS OF GOP RECOGNITION OF GRUNK. WE WERE NOT AWARE OF MRS. MARCOS' CONTACTS WITH DRV OFFICIALS IN MIDDLE EAST, AND, IF THEY OCCURRED, DOUBT THEY WERE AS SUBSTANTIVE AS PRESS REPORTS. GOP OBVIOUSLY TRYING CREATE IMPRESSION DECISION TO RECOGNIZE DRV NOT OPPORTUNISTIC RESPONSE TO SOUTH VIETNAM'S TROUBLES. WE ASSUME AT SAME TIME THAT GOP IS AWARE OF AND IN ACCORD WITH SIMILAR ADJUSTMENT PROCESS OF ITS ASEAN COLLEAGUES.
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